

	<b>FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES</b>	
	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	
<b>321.00</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b> <i>David W. Nye, Chief of Police</i>	<b>Initiated:</b> 10/01/2007
		<b>Revised:</b> 11/16/2015

## BOMB INCIDENTS

**321.00 – Bomb Threat Responsibilities** – The Fredericksburg City Code § 42-113 – c, gives “all the powers and duties as established in chapter 3, title 27, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended” to the “Fire Code Official and assistants”. Code of Virginia § 27-34.2:1 directs these officials to investigate and prosecute “all offenses involving hazardous materials, fires, fire bombings, bombings, attempts or threats to commit such offenses, false alarms relating to such offenses, possession and manufacture of explosive devices, substances and fire bombs”.

Police officers and the Watch Commander are to respond to bomb incidents as dispatched, however the Fire Department is in charge of the incident and will assume the role of Incident Commander.

Police personnel have the following responsibilities during bomb incidents:

- Shall assume command over the incident until the Fire Department arrives, and then form unified command.
- The Watch Commander is to work with the Fire Department in a unified command with the Incident Commander (Fire Officer) under the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Officers are responsible for law enforcement issues as directed by the Watch Commander.

**321.01 – Initial Response** – Communications shall dispatch police and fire units per ComSec standard operating procedures when a bomb threat is received. Procedures for initial response to a bomb incident are:

- Emergency warning equipment will not be used while responding to a bomb threat.
- Units will stage their vehicles a minimum of 330 feet from the site and in a manner to provide adequate scene safety.
- Do not use radios or cellular phones any closer than 330 feet from the site as they can, in some instances, set off an explosive device.

- The Watch Commander will assign specific duties to law enforcement personnel (ex. evacuation, search, crowd control or traffic control).
- The Unified Commander will make all decisions relating to evacuation, additional personnel, or the termination of police involvement.
- The Unified Commander is responsible to request a bomb detection canine for response to the incident if appropriate.

Police personnel should never consider a bomb threat routine or false until all reasonable actions have been taken to establish validity.

**321.02 – Searching** – Police officers may be assigned to participate in searches for suspicious devices if requested to do so by building managers or supervisors and the Unified Commanders approve the search. Additionally, officers may assist the handler of a bomb detection canine as appropriate. The Unified Commanders shall evaluate the following factors when considering such an assignment:

- Safety of all citizens and police personnel
- Security of the incident scene
- Staffing levels commensurate to safely manage the search and still maintain the other factors

Employees of a business may assist in searching a building, if authorized by the business manager. Employees should be person (s) who have master keys and are familiar with the building. They should be cautioned to notify the police immediately if a suspected device is found, and not to touch it.

**321.03 – Evacuation** – If a device is located, the Unified Commanders may order an evacuation of the building. Proper direction and control must be maintained. Tell evacuees to:

- Take with them their personal belongings. (coats, purses, briefcases, pets, etc.)
- Turn off any noisy equipment.
- Not use cell phones, portable radios, pagers and other similar electronic devices.

Additionally:

- All persons should be evacuated to a distance of at least 330 feet away from the site.
- Elevators should not be used in the evacuation process except for those unable to use the stairs, such as the elderly, infirm, or disabled.
- After the evacuation, the Unified Commander should assign a business supervisor to ensure all persons from the area to be evacuated are accounted for, including persons with disabilities.
- A perimeter should be set up to prevent anyone from entering or reentering the evacuated area. Unless rescue operations are necessary, no one will be allowed into the evacuated area until the device has been removed or rendered safe by bomb technicians.

**321.04 – Suspected Device** – Suspected devices shall be managed as follows:

- DO NOT MOVE, TAMPER, OR ATTEMPT TO DISARM A SUSPECTED DEVICE.
- DO NOT TOUCH OR GO NEAR THE DEVICE ONCE IT'S DISCOVERED.
- Police will ensure no one enters the inner perimeter with the exception of the bomb technician.
- Do not turn any lights on or off, or allow any photography flashes or other lights to affect the device.
- The Unified Commanders are responsible to request a bomb disposal unit for response to the incident.
- After the evacuation, only the bomb disposal technician (s) will be allowed to enter the evacuated area.
- The bomb disposal technician (s) will have complete control of the actual device and the immediate surrounding area. The technician(s) must not be hindered from their primary mission of rendering the device safe.

**321.05 – Explosions** – If an explosion occurs:

- Seal off the area. Avoid entering the immediate location of the explosion. Officers should keep back at least 1500 feet until Haz-Mat units authorize entry. Allow entry only to emergency equipment and persons authorized by the Unified Command.
- Be aware of possible radiological, chemical, or biological hazards that may have been dispersed in the explosion. Follow the direction of the Fire Department.
- Secondary devices could be detonated. Except for rescue operations, waiting at least one hour before re-entering the area is recommended.

**321.06 – Investigation** – Bomb incidents will be investigated as follows:

- An Incident Report will be completed following any bomb threat or incident.
- A detective may be assigned to assist in the investigation with the Fire Marshall or other investigative authority.
- Bomb threats on City school property will be assigned to the police department for follow up unless an explosive device is located.
- If appropriate, the Unified Command may contact the Virginia State Police for assistance who have trained post-blast investigators and will assist local jurisdictions.

**FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT  
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM / CRITICAL  
INCIDENT**

**BOMB INCIDENTS**

- ☐ Participate in a unified **Incident Command** with the Fire Department (Fire Department is the Incident Commander)
- ☐ Have business/school representative respond to command post
- ☐ Evaluate the situation, request assistance as necessary
- ☐ Establish a perimeter
- ☐ Request additional assistance from other law enforcement agencies as appropriate
- ☐ Assist in a search if appropriate

**If a device is found:**

- ☐ Assist in an orderly evacuation (evacuate at least 300 yards away)
- ☐ Prevent entry into area by unauthorized persons – do not touch anything

**Actual explosion:**

- ☐ Increase perimeter to 1500 feet
- ☐ Be aware of secondary devices
- ☐ Provide support and safety for incident operations

**Post Incident**

- ☐ Personnel Roll Call
- ☐ Assign primary officer for IBR
- ☐ Secure scene and preserve all evidence
- ☐ Request additional resources' (ie, Peer support, d division, etc.)
- ☐ Debrief and complete after action